

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by German document '517, submitted by applicant.

German document '517 discloses applicant's claimed vehicle headlamp having a lamp vessel (2), a luminous means (filament) arranged therein and a lamp base,

the lamp vessel having a sealed end (a bottom part of the vessel), which has at least one molybdenum foil seal, which includes at least one molybdenum foil (3) and a power supply wire (6), which overlaps and is connected to the molybdenum foil and protrudes out of the sealed end of the lamp vessel,

the lamp base having a metallic base sleeve (4), in which the sealed end of the lamp vessel is fixed,

the base sleeve (4) having at least one aperture (a rectangle shaped aperture as shown in upper portion of Figures 2a, 2c), which is arranged in the region of the sealed end of the lamp vessel,

characterized in that the metallic base sleeve (4) has at least one integrally formed tab (16), which protrudes into the

Art Unit: 2889

aperture and bears against the sealed end of the lamp vessel in the region of overlap between the at least one molybdenum foil and the power supply wire.

As to claim 2, the German document discloses the at least one molybdenum foil and the power supply wire overlapping it are connected to one another by means of welding, and the at least one tab which is integrally formed on the metallic base sleeve bears against the sealed end of the lamp vessel in the region of the welding.

3. Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Jacrot USPN '276, submitted by applicant.

Jacrot discloses applicant's claimed vehicle headlamp having a lamp vessel (1), a luminous means (5) arranged therein and a lamp base,

the lamp vessel having a sealed end (a bottom part of the vessel), which has at least one molybdenum foil seal, which includes at least one molybdenum foil (10, 11) and a power supply wire (6), which overlaps and is connected to the molybdenum foil and protrudes out of the sealed end of the lamp vessel,

the lamp base having a metallic base sleeve (12), in which the sealed end of the lamp vessel is fixed,

Art Unit: 2889

the base sleeve (12) having at least one aperture (window 13), which is arranged in the region of the sealed end of the lamp vessel,

characterized in that the metallic base sleeve has at least one integrally formed tab (see claim 5), which protrudes into the aperture and bears against the sealed end of the lamp vessel in the region of overlap between the at least one molybdenum foil and the power supply wire.

As to claim 2, Jacrot discloses the at least one molybdenum foil and the power supply wire overlapping it are being connected to one another by means of welding, and the at least one tab which is integrally formed on the metallic base sleeve bears against the sealed end of the lamp vessel in the region of the welding.

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over German document '517, as applied to claim 1.

Art Unit: 2889

As to claims 3 and 4, it can not be determined whether German document '517 disclose the metallic base sleeve consisting of stainless steel or brass.

However, providing the base sleeve of a suitable metal or alloy would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art for placing the lamp vessel within the lamp base and/or for efficiently conducting heat away from the vessel.

In light of this, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the vehicle headlamp of the German document including the sleeve of a suitable metal or alloy for placing the lamp vessel within the lamp base and/or for efficiently conducting heat away from the vessel.

6. Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jacrot, as applied to claim 1.

As to claims 3 and 4, Jacrot does not the metallic base sleeve consisting of stainless steel or brass.

However, providing the base sleeve of a suitable metal or alloy would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art for placing the lamp vessel within the lamp base and/or for efficiently conducting heat away from the vessel.

In light of this, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the vehicle headlamp of the

Art Unit: 2889

Jacrot including the sleeve of a suitable metal or alloy for placing the lamp vessel within the lamp base and/or for efficiently conducting heat away from the vessel.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ashok Patel whose telephone number is 571-272-2456. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Minh-Toan Ton can be reached on 571-272-2303. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Ashok Patel/
Ashok Patel
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2879